with the way the bank has been functioning in India and the results of the bank funded projects; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) The Government of India have no communication from the President of the World Bank conveying dissatisfaction with the Bank's functioning in India and the results of bank funded project.

Sixth Round Table Conference of the Economists

189. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Sixth Round Table Conference of the Economists took place with the Government; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of that conference and what further action Government have taken so far on the recommendations of the conference in connection with foreign investments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A major outcome of the Sixth Round Table is that it would increase the awareness of India's economic reform programme amongst the multinational business community. As part of the on-going economic reforms, Government have already taken several initiatives to promote foreign investment such as automatic permission for foreign equity holdings upto 51 per cent in high priority industries, expeditious clearing of other foreign investment proposals by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board, facilities for portfolio investment by Foreign Institutional investors, permission to reputed Indian compaines to float equity abroad and liberalisation of the provisions in the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act. Economic Reforms are, however, a continuing process and further measures to attract direct foreign investment would be taken when required.

190. [*Transferred to the 30th April,* 1993].

Activities of the Song and Drama Division in Orissa

191. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) what are the activities of the Song and Drama Division in Orissa as compared to other places in the country;

(b) whether the Division uses registered parties to organise different song/drama/ cultural programmes; and

(c) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to ensure continuity so as to provide a source of income to artistes etc. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b) The Song and Drama Division seeks to inform, educate and entertain the people through the live media, especially folk and traditional media, throughout the country. The Division organises its programmes in all the States through its own troupes as well as private troupes/artists registered with it.

In Orissa, in connection with the 'Orissa Day' as part of Orissa Mahotsav this year, the Division has organised

sound and light programme "Badhte Qadam" depicting the freedom struggle and national integration. A five-day Odissi dance festival was also held from the 1st April, 1993 at Khandagiri-Udaigiri caves. Other cultural programmes were organised and are also being presently organised in various parts of Orissa to commemorate the memory of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, other freedom fighters and legendary heroes of Orissa. These programmes are a continuing process and are organised in all States.

(c) The Song & Drama Division also engages local troupes/artists for its programme and this provide a source of income for the local artists.

Press Council's Report in respect of Bihar

192. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in its recent report the Press Council has concluded that the Press is under peril in the State of Bihar;

(b) if so, what are the details of the Press Council's report in respect of Bihar;

(c) what recommendations have been made by the Press Council to reduce tension between the administration and the Press in Bihar with details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to implement the recommendations of the Press Council in respect of Bihar; and

(e) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented by the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b) The conclusions of the Report of Press Council are enclosed in Statement-I [*See* below].

(c) The suggestions and recommendations of the Press Council's Report are enclosed in Statement-II [See below].

(d) and (e) The Government have noted the recommendations of the Press Council. It is for the State Government of Bihar to take a view in the matter and implement the recommendations.

Statement—I

Summary of Conclusions

It appears that the relations between the Press and the authorities at the district levels, particularly in South Bihar, are not satisfactory. There is a measure of tension between them for a variety of reasons leading to unpleasant incidents and avoidable conflict. It appears that at the district level, the stringers, freelance journalist, small town journalists and journalists of small newspapers are the most vulnerable sections in the media who suffer humiliation, violence and harassment at the hands of intolerant and impatient elements in the administration.

The general brutalization of the social order has affected the behavioural pattern in general and in the administration, and could be assessed from the tenor of allegations and counter-allegations, the information and interpretation offered both by journalists and the officers. There is a lot of economic activity in South Bihar. That may be one reason for tension between administration and the Press. Political movements in the region may also have responsible. The other reason could be clash of ego. The sharpening of the caste tension, the aspirations of various sections, etc., find reflection in the media one way or the other, and the apparent increase in criminalisation of politics and the concomitant attitude of intolerance have combined to create a situation where the line between rights and duties seems to have been blurred at the district levels.